

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 IGA-02 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 OES-06 ERDA-05 /113 W

-----041053Z 065353 /15

R 040949Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7757

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 0105

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, ENRG, VN

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN ASSISTANCE TO VIET-NAM

REF: BANGKOK 33802 (NOTAL)

1. AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF TELLS US THAT IN CONTACT WITH HIS NATIONALS GOING TO AND COMING FROM HANOI HE NOTED THAT DELEGATION OF BHP STEEL FIRM, WHICH IS ALSO ACTIVE IN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, HAS VISITED HANOI FOR THIRD TIME IN SLIGHTLY OVER A YEAR. THE FIRM IS INTERESTED IN RESUMING EXPLORATION IN ITS OFFSHORE CONCESSIONS FOR PETROLEUM PREVIOUSLY GRANTED BY GVN. DISCUSSIONS OF TERMS HAVE NOT BEEN EASY, THE VIETNAMESE OBVIOUSLY SHOPPING AROUND FOR MOST FAVORABLE DEAL AND POSSIBLY STILL WAITING FOR
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U.S. FIRMS TO RETURN TO THE BIDDING. SOURCE SAID BHP EXPECTS TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH SRV VERY SHORTLY.

2. HE ALSO NOTED THAT CANBERRA HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO ESTABLISH RELATIVELY SMALL A\$6 MILLION AID PROGRAM OVER THREE-YEAR PERIOD IN VEIT-NAM. IT WOULD COSIST OF TRAINING ENGLISH TEACHERS AND, AS NOTED REFTTEL, IMPROVEMENT OF VIET-

NAMESE DAIRY INDUSTRY AND RESUMPTION OF MUNICIPAL WATER PROJECTS IN DANANG AND VUNG TAU, ABANDONED WITH FALL OF THE SOUTH. ALTHOUGH NOTHING HAS HAPPENED ON WATER PROJECTS, SINCE AUSTRALIANS HAVE NOT YET SENT IN SURVEY TEAM TO SEE WHAT REMAINS, IF ANYTHING, OF PIPES, ETC., ORIGINALLY SENT TO THOSE CITIES, THE HEAD OF THE DAIRY CATTLE SURVEY TEAM PASSED THROUGH BANGKOK FOLLOWING VISIT TO VIET-NAM. AN EXPERT IN THE FIELD, HE SAID THE VIENAMESE WANT AUSTRALIA TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPMENT OF DAIRY CATTLE OPERATIONS ON STATE FARMS IN THE NORTH. HE NOTED NUMBER OF DEFICIENCIES IN THEM AT PRESENT BUT REPORTEDLY SAID THAT, IF AUSTRALIAN AID TO DAIRY INDUSTRY IS GOING TO SUCCEED ANYWHERE, IT WILL IN VIET-NAM.

3. COMMENT: AUSTRALIANS OPERATED DAIRY CATTLE PROJECT NEAR BEN CAT, BINH DUONG PROVINCE, FOR MANY YEARS UNTIL HALTED BY VIET CONG ACTIVITY. DAIRY CATTLE INDUSTRY IS A "NATURAL" IN NUMEROUS LOCATIONS IN VIET-NAM AND AUSTRALIANS CERTAINLY HAVE THE EXPERTISE TO MAKE SUCH A PROJECT GO.
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